



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Chair  
Delegate Debra Davis, Vice Chair  
Judiciary Committee Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus  
DATE: 02/24/2026  
RE: HB0699 - Maryland Use of Force Statute - Failure to Prevent  
Excessive Force or Render First Aid - Misdemeanor

### **The MLLC supports HB0699 - Maryland Use of Force Statute - Failure to Prevent Excessive Force or Render First Aid - Misdemeanor**

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB0699.

Police excessive force is a matter of life or death for Latinos as they are the second most likely demographic to die in the presence of or be killed by law enforcement<sup>1</sup>. While only making up for about 18% of the U.S. population, Latinos made up for almost 20% of deaths resulting from the use of excessive force<sup>2</sup>. Although police excessive force against minority communities has been widely documented in the United States, it continues to occur leading to the death of Latinos in Maryland and around the country. In addition to fearing the results of a police encounter, the Latino community is already particularly sensitive to encounters with law enforcement due to language barriers, immigration status, and a general distrust for the system.

For the Latino community, who are disproportionately impacted by excessive use of force in encounters with law enforcement, this legislation would ensure officers act according to policies and prevent escalation of excessive force and/or render aid in case of excessive force. Ultimately, by reinforcing an officer's duty to intervene and lend aid to victims of use of excessive force, minority communities throughout the U.S. will be better protected.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0699.

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<sup>1</sup> [La Raza Database Research Project Final Report. Sep. 2023](#)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.